agency, within the quantitative/qualitative annual ceilings released by the Government after taking into account the domestic requirements and the conservation angle. The benefit under LERMS is also available to export of manganease ore.

[*English*]

Utilisation if Defence Land

5946. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have recently made any assessment of defence land lying unused for a long time in various parts of the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose utilise such lands?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). Defence land holdings are reviewed from time by the concerned user Service for ensuring optimisation of land use. No separate assessment of land, apparently lying unused, is being carried out, as such lands are not necessarliy surplus to Defence requirements but may have been kept vacant for meting various training and other security needs or for future use.

As per present policy, surplus defence lands are to be disposed of through public auctions.

Disposal by direct sale can also be considered in the following order of priority to the agencies indicated below:

1. Other Ministries of the Central Government.

2. State Governments.

3. Local bodies.

4. Educational and Charitable Institutions.

5. Ex-Servicemen.

Ex Servicemen can be offered only one building plot where the land is being sold after preparation of a layout plan.

Mining Industries in Goa

5947. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mining industry in Goa is facing a setback in imports Japan;

(b) whether the fall in the Japanese demand for Goan minerals is due to competition from other countries; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to make Goan minerals more competitive and retaining Japan as its main importer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Lower offtake of iron ore by Japanese steel Mills during 1992-93 in view of the high inventory of iron ore with them and the forecast of lower production of steel, may marginally affect mining industry in Goa.

(c) In order to render mineral export from India competitive in the international market, benefit under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act has been extended to exports of processed minerals apart from the advantage of Dollar-Rupee convertibility under the exports including minerals and ores.